

The UN OCHA Pastoralist Communication Initiative



The UN OCHA Pastoralist Communication Initiative (UN OCHA-PCI) works on exploring new approaches to pastoralist development and relief issues in Ethiopia. The Initiative develops new knowledge and innovation among those involved in pastoral governance, economy and social protection. It links pastoralists, government, the United Nations, bilateral agencies, private sector and others in productive conversation across Ethiopia, the Horn of Africa, Africa and beyond. It promotes a wide appreciation of the potential of the pastoral socio-economy among official institutions and the public.



Borana, Gabra and Gujji meeting in Yabello

Linkages and peer learning opportunities are very important for members of the pastoral economy and their governments in exploring social, economic and political change. Our **Events Unit** promotes these linkages through international pastoral gatherings, inter-ministerial meetings, exchanges and facilitated debates.

PCI Approaches

All parties need evidence from a number of perspectives to appreciate emerging issues. Our **Evidence Unit** promotes rigorous research and active dissemination and debate, as well as training for pastoralist leaders and government officials.

The pastoral economy and society, as a potential contributor to national and regional wellbeing, needs to promote itself and its strengths. Our **Reporting Unit** promotes pastoral linkages to national and international media.

Our **Advisors Unit** ensures good relations with institutions, community leaders and individuals involving consistent information flow between all the parties for events, for research activities and for reporting.



Oromia Government officials at a meeting about pastoralism

In the 3 years of its current programme, UNOCHA-PCI will be:

Activities

- ⇒ Working through OCHA to link the United Nations Country Team and regional offices and relevant government bodies to pastoralist knowledge and innovation, in support of efficient and appropriate programming for pastoralist relief and development.
- ⇒ Conducting a series of pastoral gatherings at regional and international level to provide Ethiopian pastoralists with access to knowledge and innovation.
- ⇒ Promoting pastoral leadership development through exchanges with pastoralist leaders in other countries.
- ⇒ Supporting government learning through international and national meetings, exchanges with government officials in other countries and through tailored training courses.
- ⇒ Undertaking research and its wide dissemination, including comparative studies of approaches to pastoralist economic, social and political development in different countries.
- ⇒ Working with the Africa Union towards a Pan-African Inter-Ministerial Summit on pastoralism to be held in 2008/9.
- ⇒ Promoting relevant debates on trade relating to the pastoral economy and encouraging private sector innovation within the pastoral economy.
- ⇒ Linking donors to pastoralists to develop new approaches to development and humanitarian intervention.
- ⇒ Supporting civil society capabilities with regard to pastoral voice, organization and democratic engagement.
- ⇒ Supporting pastoralist links to and capabilities with national and international media to promote a more benign view of pastoralism among the general public.



Gabra and Borana leaders meet with government officials in Arero

Immediate objectives in 2006 are:

- ⇒ Introduce and discuss our new agenda with the Government of Ethiopia, key donors, multilateral partners, pastoralist leaders, and key allies in the Greater Horn Region.
- ⇒ Work with the new United Nations Secretary General's Special Envoy on drought in the Horn of Africa to look at long term solutions to pastoral livelihood insecurity.
- ⇒ Organize, in Ethiopia, a regional gathering of pastoralists from the Horn, with representation from delegations of pastoral leaders, government, the UN, donors and NGOs, with particular emphasis on Ethiopia and Kenya. This builds on the process started last year in Turmi, SNNPR at the Global Pastoralist Gathering.
- ⇒ Publish, disseminate and debate the results of a two-year study looking at the viability of pastoralism in Ethiopia's Somali Region. Concurrent with formal launches in Addis Ababa and Jigjiga and dissemination across the Horn of Africa, there will be far-reaching debate with the people and leaders of Somali region itself.

UN OCHA-PCI uses the following principles in its work:

- ⇒ We start from a position that pastoralists and other members of the pastoral economy should choose the direction of their development.
- ⇒ We do not speak for pastoralists, they speak for themselves.
- ⇒ We seek pastoralist guidance in selecting our activities and priorities and take action on request.
- ⇒ We treat the institutions with which we work with the highest respect.
- ⇒ We support innovation that significantly advances the pastoral economy and society and that is acceptable to that society and its government(s).
- ⇒ We are independent and do not take sides or political positions in debates.
- ⇒ We value working in alliance with those who hold the same or similar principles and approaches.

Principles

Strength & Vulnerability



Jigjiga livestock market

PCI understands from pastoralists and researchers alike that the current high levels of vulnerability suffered by many members of the pastoral economy are due not so much to increasing natural shocks such as drought, or to the effects of a growing population, as to the failure to support appropriate social and political adjustments to changing circumstances. How is it that some African countries, where rainfall is lower, have managed to support a higher standard of living for pastoralists than that found in the Horn of Africa? Supporting viable livelihoods in pastoral economies requires expanding people's options, supporting the co-operation between pastoralists, agropastoralists, farmers, traders and urban dwellers and maximising – not restricting – their physical, economic and social mobility. It requires that they be treated not as victims, but as capable people already engaged in developing their livelihoods in the light of continuous economic, political and social change.

Offices & Partnerships



Kereyu leaders meet Hilary Benn, UK Secretary of State

PCI is hosted by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) in Addis Ababa. Its current phase started in March 2006 and is a three-year project on democracy, growth and peace for pastoralists, funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID). It builds on four years of prior work in Ethiopia, working closely with the Ethiopia Ministry of Federal Affairs and the Regional Pastoral Development Co-ordination Offices and Commissions in Ethiopia as well as with the customary institutions of pastoralists in Ethiopia. It also plans to work with regional and international bodies including the Africa Union, IGAD and United Nations regional offices in the Horn of Africa and with national governments in the Horn including the Government of Kenya.

More Information...



Gabra camel

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